

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 03106 300933Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----301749Z 078775 /42

R 300504Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7865
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 3106

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS USIA AND ACDA

EO 11652GDS
TAGS: PARM, PROP, PFOR, US, PL
SUBJ: MOBILIZING SUPPORT FOR U.S. - ARMS-REDUCTION PROPOSALS

REF: A. WARSAW 2468, B. SOFIA 773

1. SINCE TRANSMITTING REF A, I HAVE BEEN STRUCK REPEATEDLY BY THE STRONGLY DEFENSIVE CHARACTER OF THE TACTICS BEING PURSUED IN THE POLISH MEDIA ON THE ISSUE OF ARMS CONTROL AND REDUCTION. THIS TAKES TWO PRINCIPAL FORMS: (A) CLAIMS THAT THE "SOCIALIST COUNTRIES," LED BY THE USSR, ARE THE ONLY TRUE PROPOENENTS OF DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL (E.G., WARSAW 2699 AND 2809) AND (B) CONTENTIONS THAT THE U.S. IS STEPPING UP THE ARMS RACE (E.G., WARSAW 2995 AND 2961). THE WEAKNESS OF THE WARSAW PACT POSITION IS IMPLICITLY RECOGNIZED, IT SEEMS TO ME, BOTH IN THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE HIS
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AUDIENCE THAT THE USSR HAS A CLEAR POSITION ON STRATEGIC-ARMS LIMITATION AND REALLY IS INTERESTED IN REACHING AGREEMENTS IN THIS AND OTHER FIELDS WITH THE U.S. (WARSAW 2809) AND IN THE TIMOROUSNESS OF THE INSTRUCTION GIVEN TO SOVIET DIPLOMATS IN WARSAW ON HOW TO PROCEED IN CONVERSATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH OFFICERS OF THIS MISSION (WARSAW 2959). MEANWHILE, OUR

DISCUSSIONS WITH POLISH JOURNALISTS LEAD ME TO DEDUCE THAT THEIR MASTERS HOPE THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN SO SOUNDLY CHASTISED BY THE KNOW-IT-ALLS OF THE AMERICAN MEDIA FOR THE "FAILURE" OF THE SECRETARY'S TALKS IN MOSCOW THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUPY ITSELF WITH OTHER MATTERS UNTIL THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES CAN COME FORWARD WITH WHAT WILL BE BILLED IN THE WEST AS A GREAT NEW DISARMAMENT PROPOSAL AND REGAIN THE INITIATIVE. (OR PERHAPS THEY WILL OFFER A CONTINGENT PROPOSAL FOR A COMPLETE TEST BAN. ANYTHING TO ENABLE THE WARSAW PACT ONCE AGAIN TO PORTRAY ITSELF AS OFFERING MORE AND BETTER PEACE PROPOSALS THAN THE OTHER SIDE.) (IN ADDITION TO THE FIVE MESSAGES CITED IN THIS PARAGRAPH, SEE WARSAW 2479, 2516, AND 2663.)

2. IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE POLISH REGIME SHOULD PURCHASE NEW TANKS AND AIRCRAFT CONTINUES TO BE POSTPONED (WARSAW 2652). BY THE SAME TOKEN, IT CONTINUES TO REMAIN OPEN.

3. IN WARSAW 2809, WE COMMENTED ON THE UNUSUAL PUBLIC RECOGNITION THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IMPLICITLY ACCORDED POPULAR POLISH ASPIRATIONS AND HOPES FOR THE FURTHER RELAXATION OF TENSIONS. WE WILL NO DOUBT GET A BIG DOSE OF MORE OF THE SAME DURING THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE BUILDERS OF PEACE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN WARSAW MAY 6 (WARSAW 2283).

4. I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THE GROUND HERE REMAINS CONFIDENTIAL

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VERY FERTILE FOR THE KIND OF CAMPAIGN WE OUTLINED IN REF A. I HOPE CONSIDERATION MAY BE GIVEN TO PURSUING THAT PROPOSAL.
DAVIES

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USIA AND ACDA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DISARMAMENT, POLICIES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977WARSAW03106
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770152-0505
Format: TEL
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977041/aaaaaabm.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 WARSAW 2468, 77 SOFIA 773
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2656086
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOBILIZING SUPPORT FOR U.S. - ARMS-REDUCTION PROPOSALS
TAGS: PARM, PROP, PFOR, US, PL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c2d6309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009